

A B S T R A C T

The invention provides an assay method for determining phosphatase targeting toxins which inhibit protein phosphatases comprising contacting a solid support having an immobilized ligand immobilized thereon with: (i) a sample suspected of being contaminated with toxin and (ii) a non-immobilized ligand, wherein said immobilized ligand is capable of generating directly or indirectly detectable signal when uncomplexed, when complexed by said toxin, when complexed by a complex of said toxin and said non-immobilized ligand or when complexed by said non-immobilized ligand or said non-immobilized ligand is capable of generating a directly or indirectly detectable signal when uncomplexed or when complexed, separating a bound fraction from a non-bound fraction; and directly or indirectly determining the non-immobilized ligand bound to the immobilized ligand (the bound fraction) or non-complexed in aqueous solution (the non-bound fraction).